

# **Integral Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology (IIAST)**

## **Integral University, Lucknow**

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### **Brief report on Kisan Pathshala on Role of Polyculture in Organic Farming Systems (जैविक कृषि प्रणालियों में पॉलीकल्चर की भूमिका ) organised by Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (IIAST) on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2019 in Bhakamau Village**

The Kisan Pathshala held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at Bhakamau village, organized by the Department of Agriculture was a significant event aimed at educating farmers about the pivotal role of polycultures in organic farming systems. Kisan Pathshala integrates various facets of Agricultural knowledge into a packaged format and delivers it through village-level training to farmers. This gathering brought together a diverse group of farmers eager to learn sustainable agricultural practices. Throughout the session, experts explained the various benefits of polyculture systems, underlining their capacity to enhance biodiversity, fortify soil health, and naturally combat pests and diseases.

The pathshala was observed under the guidance of Prof. Mohd Haris Siddiqui, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Science and Technology and Dr. Saba Siddiqui, Head, Department of Agriculture, IIAST. The faculty coordinators Mr Nadeem Khan and Dr Usman Sayeed along with the supporting staff Mr. Rizwan Ali accompanied the students of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture to the Bhakamau village where the Pathshala was organised.

In agriculture, polyculture is the practice of growing more than one crop species together in the same place at the same time. Polyculture farming is a great method for improving the environment and the soil. It can reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides, help to prevent soil erosion, add nutrients to your soil, increase water retention in the soil, and increase biodiversity. Mr Nadeem Khan emphasised the importance of diversifying crops to create sustainable farming ecosystems. Farmers were introduced to various techniques such as crop rotation, intercropping, and companion planting, each designed to optimize yields while minimizing reliance on synthetic inputs. Practical demonstrations provided attendees with hands-on experience, enabling them to grasp the knowledge of implementing polyculture practices effectively.

The event served as a catalyst for change, inspiring farmers to reevaluate their farming methods and consider adopting polyculture systems. The collective resolve among participants to embrace sustainable practices marked a significant step towards building a more resilient and ecologically conscious agricultural landscape in Bhakamau village. Overall, the Kisan Pathshala acted as a platform for knowledge exchange and empowerment, empowering farmers with the tools and insights needed to navigate towards a more sustainable future in agriculture.

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**Glimpses of the event**

